

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An introduction device for introducing an object into a vessel of a body, comprising:

a tubular channel and a dilator carrying the channel, wherein the dilator comprises a conical tip portion and is adapted to be retracted from the channel, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the channel has a wall thickness not larger than 0.06 mm and is formed exclusively of ~~from~~ a hard plastic material.

2. (Currently Amended) The introduction device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein ~~prior to sliding the channel onto the dilator~~ the inner diameter (D1) of the channel is at least as large as the outer diameter (D2) of the dilator prior to sliding the channel onto the dilator.

3. (Currently Amended) The introduction device according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the channel forms a force fit on the dilator.

4. (Currently Amended) The introduction device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the dilator and/or the channel comprise a low-friction slip material.

5. (Currently Amended) The introduction device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising a connecting device for injecting a pressurized fluid into the channel ~~is provided~~.

6. (Currently Amended) The introduction device, [in particular] according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the channel comprises a distal end section which at least partly overlaps the conical tip portion.

7. (Currently Amended) The introduction device according to claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the end section is defined by a tear-off line.

8. (Currently Amended) The introduction device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the end section of the channel is adhesively bonded to the tip portion of the dilator.